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CASEY
BY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IS DEBATING WHETHER ITS REPORT ON CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY'S PAST BUSINESS PRACTICES SHOULD ALSO COMMENT ON HIS DECISION TO RETAIN CONTROL OVER HIS STOCK PORTFOLIO.

IN A TWO-HOUR CLOSED SESSION THAT REACHED NO CONCLUSIONS, THE PANEL DEBATED SEVERAL PROPOSED VERSIONS MONDAY OF ITS REPORT ON CASEY, INCLUDING ONE DRAFT DESCRIBED AS QUESTIONING CASEY'S CREDIBILITY.

AFTER THE MEETING, SEN. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, D-N.Y., THE ACTING CHAIRMAN, SAID HE HOPED THE COMMITTEE WOULD REACH A CONSENSUS WHEN IT RESUMED WORK THIS AFTERNOON.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED WHETHER IT SHOULD ADDRESS CASEY'S DECISION NOT TO FOLLOW THE PRACTICE OF HIS TWO PREDECESSORS AND PUT HIS STOCK IN A BLIND TRUST. CASEY, WHO HAS BROAD ACCESS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET DATA ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, HAS KEPT CONTROL OF MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR HOLDINGS IN COMPANIES WITH MAJOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS.

MOYNIHAN SAID NINE OF THE PANEL'S 15 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT MONDAY AND THEY SPENT THEIR TIME IN LINE-BY-LINE DEBATE OVER SEVERAL DIFFERENT DRAFTS OF THE CASEY REPORT.

ONE SENATOR, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED, SAID A DRAFT REPORT BY THE PANEL'S SPECIAL DEMOCRATIC COUNSEL, IRVIN NATHAN, ''QUESTIONS CASEY'S CREDIBILITY.'' HE WOULD GIVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.

MOYNIHAN SAID HE EXPECTS A REPORT TO BE MADE PUBLIC SOON AFTER A FINAL COMMITTEE VOTE.

THE COMMITTEE BEGAN EXAMINING CASEY'S BUSINESS PRACTICES AFTER IT BECAME PUBLIC IN JULY THAT TWO FEDERAL COURT DECISIONS HAD CRITICIZED HIS ROLE IN MULTIPONICS, INC., A FAILED NEW ORLEANS FARMING VENTURE.
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